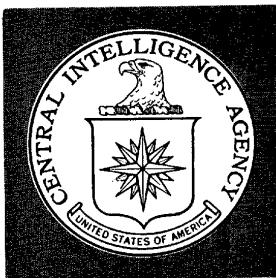


~~SENSITIVE~~

CIA/SAVA /WVIND 710731



WEEKLY VIETNAM INDICATORS

Week Ending 31 July 1971

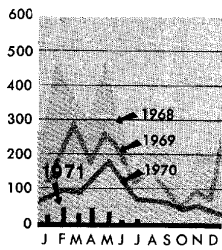
NSA Declassification/Release instructions on File.

~~For the President Only~~

~~Top Secret~~

SOUTH VIETNAM WEEKLY INDICATORS

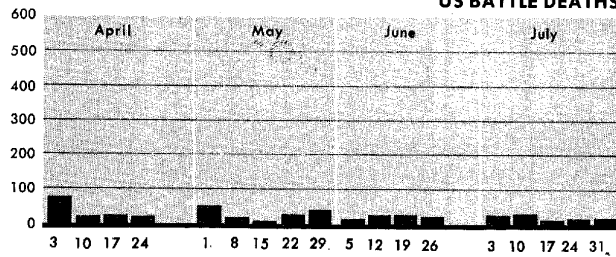
1968-1971
Weekly average for each month



APRIL 1971 - JULY 1971
Weekly data as reported

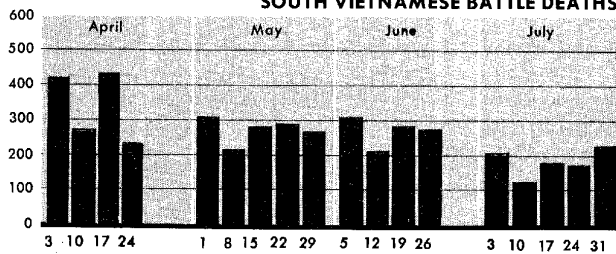
US BATTLE DEATHS

increased by one to 14 from last week's 13.



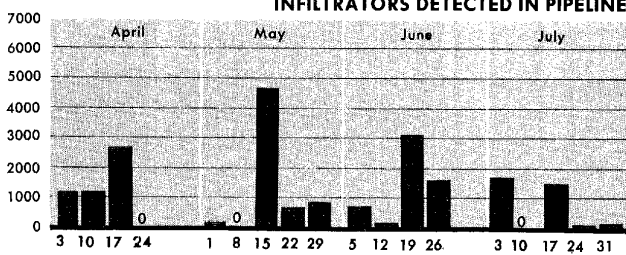
SOUTH VIETNAMESE BATTLE DEATHS

rose to 246 from the 175 of last week. The official total will change and will be lower than the figures released to the press by the GVN.



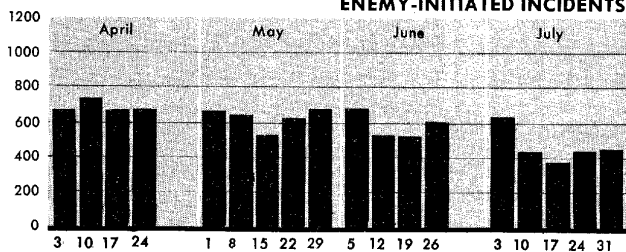
INFILTRATORS DETECTED IN PIPELINE

stand at two special purpose groups with 40 personnel. The infiltration estimate since 1 October 1970 is now some 75,600 - 77,600.



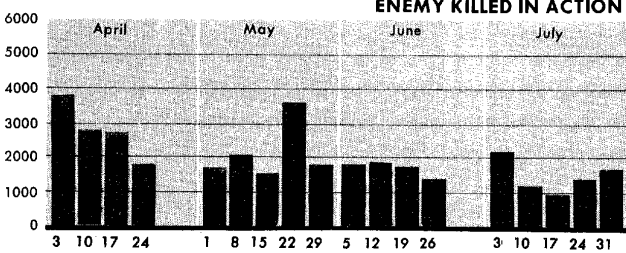
ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS

increased to 459 from last week's 423.



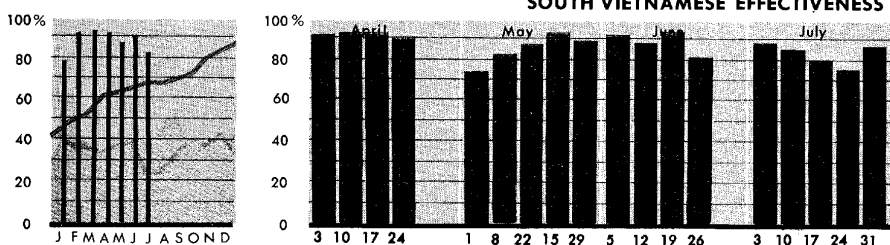
ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION

climbed from last week's 1,389 to 1,643.



SOUTH VIETNAMESE EFFECTIVENESS

as measured by the percentage of enemy killed by GVN forces rose sharply to 86% from the 74% of last week.



Statistics for the latest week shown are preliminary

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Enemy Activity

Enemy-initiated activity in South Vietnam has remained at low levels during the past week. Despite the fact that the Communists continue to maintain a strong concentration of forces in the DMZ-northern Quang Tri Province area, there are few indicators suggesting that any significant upsurge in hostilities is imminent. Country-wide, the primary emphasis seems to be on plans for disrupting the GVN elections rather than on purely military operations.

Communist activity in Cambodia continued at a low level during the past week. The multi-battalion Cambodian military operation in eastern Kompong Chhnang, now in its second week, has reached Prey Kri, some 15 miles southeast of Kompong Chhnang City. Since it began sweeping this area on 28 July, it has not run into any significant enemy resistance. Elsewhere, South Vietnamese forces in Prey Veng Province have killed some 180 Communists while suffering only minor losses since renewing operations there on 26 July. Rice convoys continue to arrive safely from Battambang with an average daily input rate of 400 tons. These quantities are, however, still some 200 tons short of satisfying the daily rice needs of the city.

The Lao Government forces, who reoccupied Saravane on 30 July without opposition, are still holding the town, and a number of high-ranking Lao officials have visited the place. Friendly forces conducting two other campaigns in southern Laos -- the push toward Muong Phalane in the central Panhandle and the major effort to recover Paksong on the Bolovens Plateau -- have had tougher going. Both efforts have run into stiff enemy resistance, although the fall of Paksong appears imminent. In north Laos, the activity has been light on the Plain of Jars, where General Vang Pao's irregulars continue to hold the advantage.

Enemy Infiltration

The detection of two small, special purpose groups, coupled with updated strength figures on one other group during the week (a total of 100) raises the estimate of infiltrators detected since 1 October 1970 to some 75,600 - 77,600. Infiltration-associated elements continue their efforts to comply with the 559th Transportation Group directive to switch to landline and multiplex communications and to cease using the two-watt radio system.

South Vietnam Developments

Barring a last minute maneuver by President Thieu, the stage now appears set for a two-man presidential race between Thieu and General Minh. It is mathematically impossible for Vice President Ky to qualify since Thieu has filed with the Supreme Court the endorsements of 452 local councilors, leaving Ky at least six short of the 100 required signatures. The various means of pressure utilized by the province chiefs to prevent Ky's qualification are certain to be aired in the domestic and international press, thus bringing into dispute the validity of the mandate which Thieu is expected to obtain. Ky is planning to retaliate by mounting a campaign of personal attacks against the president, and he is expected to keep his staff intact in order to support Minh's campaign. We have seen no sign that Minh will withdraw from the race as a result of this development, although this remains a possibility if Minh decides the cards are stacked too heavily against him.

Communist Developments

The North Vietnamese VIP-associated IL-18 aircraft, noted traveling on 27 July from Hanoi to Moscow via Peking, seems to have been dispatched for the purpose of ferrying Politburo member Le Duc Tho back to Hanoi from Moscow where he had arrived on the 28th from Paris. After spending a few days in Moscow, Le Duc Tho departed for Peking on 31 July on board the North Vietnamese IL-18 and arrived there the same day. Peking media announced that on 1 August Le Duc Tho and Chou En-lai held a conversation which probably focused in part on recent U.S.-China developments. Le Duc Tho left Peking for Hanoi on 2 August.

~~Top Secret~~